REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20-23 and 25 are currently pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 20, 22 and 23 are amended, claims 19 and 24 canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein and claim 25 is added. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 22 and 23 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 17, line 4 - page 18, line 1. Support for the amendments to claim 20 and new claim 25 can be found at least in claims 19 and 20. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-13 are allowed and that claims 3, 6, 20 and 21 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 20 is amended into independent form and new claim 25 includes the allowable features of claims 19 and 20. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 20 and 25 are allowed. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that all the claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representatives by Examiner Park in the August 12, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 14, 15, 19, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Bobo (U.S. Patent No. 6,350,066); claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Bobo in view of Thames et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0145281); claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Eguchi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117665) in view of Tanimoto (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0103242); and claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,293,253) in view of Oba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,072,599). The rejection of canceled claims 19 and 24 are moot, and the rejections of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 14-18, 22 and 23 are respectfully traversed.

None of the above-applied references teaches or renders obvious every claimed feature of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 22, and 23. None of the above-applied references teaches or renders obvious "automatically determining whether to allow access to the image data associated with the communication details of the facsimile communication, when the image data is transmitted or received through the facsimile communication," as recited in independent claims independent claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 22 and 23.

Bobo teaches determining access when a user manually supplies a user ID and password after the transmission is received (see Fig. 2 of Bobo). Therefore, Bobo does not teach or render obvious automatically determining access when the transmission is transmitted or received, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 22 and 23.

Thames does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Bobo. Thames is applied by the Office Action only for the alleged teaching of a terminal device that distributes a list page (see Office Action, pages 9 and 10).

Eguchi also does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Bobo and Thames. As shown in Fig. 12 of Eguchi, the system determines access before the e-mail is transmitted (see steps 204-208 of Eguchi). Therefore, Eguchi does not teach or render obvious automatically determining access when the transmission is transmitted or received, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 16, 22 and 23.

Tanimoto does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Bobo, Thames and Eguchi. Tanimoto is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged disclosure of an image storage unit (see Office Action, page 12).

Kida also does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Bobo, Thames, Eguchi and Tanimoto. As argued during the personal interview, Kida determines whether to allow access before the transmission is sent, and not when the transmission is transmitted or

received (see col. 10, lines 3-9 of Kida). Therefore, Kida does not teach or render obvious the features of independent claims 1, 7, 16, 22 and 23.
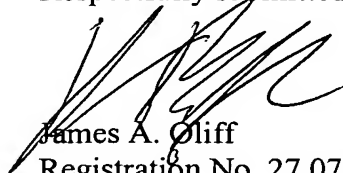
Oba does not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Bobo, Thames, Eguchi, Tanimoto and Kida. Oba is applied by the Office Action only for its alleged teaching of an image data storage unit storing communication details and the associated image data when access is allowed.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 7, 14, 16, 22 and 23 are patentable over the above-applied references. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 15 and 18, which variously depend from independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 16, are also patentable for at least their dependency on independent claims 1, 7, 14 and 16, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

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